Stoppage of Irrigation projects in states

2793. SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of irrigation projects in various States which have been stopped there were statewise due to violation of Central Government's forest policy conservation of forest;

(b) what is the number of such projects which have stopped working or have not commenced their work due to not clearance from the Central Government; and

(c) since when such projects have stopped working and when the clearance is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI VIR SEN): (a) to (c) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 provides for prior approval of the Central Government for diversion of forest land to non-forest use, including irrigation projects. The Central Government have not approved 5 proposals from the State of Madhya Pradesh, and one each from the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, relating to irrigation projects, as the State authorities had initiated diversion of forest land to non-forest use without prior approval of the Central Government.

Indian newspapers/weeklies etc. banned in Sri Lanka

2794. SRI V. GOPALSAMY:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian newspapers/weeklies banned in Sri Lanka during the past three years;

(b) the number of Indian journalists barred entry into Sri Lanka;

(c) the number of Indian journalists detained in Sri Lanka; and

(d) if the answer to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative; the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (d) According to our information, in the last three years, one issue of an Indian newspaper was banned from entry into Sri Lanka. One Indian journalist was denied entry, and one journalist was detained in Sri Lanka.

Entry was denied to Shri Sam Rajappa of "The Statesman" in July-August 1983. The detained journalist was Shri Krishan Anand of PTI who was subsequently released and the case against him withdrawn, after he had been kept in detention for a brief period.

Festival exhibits

2795. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in 'Hindu' dated 30th April, 1985 under the caption "Festival exhibits held up";

(b) if so, what were specific reasons for the same;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The exhibits of Mr. Nekchand could not be airlifted by Air India on April 24, 1985 due to late delivery of materials to Air India and lack of timely information regarding crate-wise